



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**TAMPA MEDICAL CLINIC OWNER CONVICTED ON MAIL
FRAUD CHARGES STEMMING FROM STAGED AUTO ACCIDENTS**

Tampa, Florida - Late yesterday, a federal jury returned a verdict of guilty on three of five counts charged in an Indictment against Ireno Luis Delgado, also known as Ireno Luis, age 48, of Tampa. Also convicted was Verna Maceus, age 46, of Tampa. Both defendants were convicted of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and defendant Delgado was convicted on two of four mail fraud counts. The defendants are scheduled to be sentenced on November 28, 2006.

Evidence at trial showed that Delgado was the owner and manager of the Diagnostic Medical Center (DMC), a health care clinic in Tampa which treated automobile accident patients. Between November 7, 2000 and September 17, 2002, Delgado conspired with others, including Maceus, to obtain money from insurance companies by causing false claims to be mailed to insurance companies by DMC and other clinics for medical care provided to patients resulting from injuries suffered as a result of automobile accidents, when such accidents were intentionally orchestrated and staged by the defendants and

others. Evidence showed that Delgado participated in the billing for treatments resulting from three staged accidents and that Maceus was a participant in one of the staged accidents and received treatment from DMC. In total, the insurance companies paid more than \$244,000 for the false claims.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Florida Department of Financial Services, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau. Assisting in the investigation were AIG, Allstate, State Farm of Florida, Direct General, Amstar, and MGA/Gainsco insurance companies. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald L. Hansen.